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A Dictionary of

# Construction, Surveying and Civil Engineering

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**mass** 1. A body of matter. 2. The quantity of matter; mass ( $m$ ) equals force ( $F$ ) divided by acceleration ( $a$ ), which is derived from Newton's second law of motion:  $F = ma$ .

**mass concrete** An amount of concrete, which does not contain reinforcement, but is sufficiently large to develop cracks from the heat of hydration if the amount of heat generated is not controlled.

**mass haul diagram** A graph to illustrate the volume of cut and fill in earthworks. The horizontal axis represents chainage; the vertical axis represents cut and fill—cut is shown as positive and fill as negative \*ordinates.

**mast** A vertical pole or slender tower.

**Master of Engineering** See MENG.

**mastic** A material of a non-hardening nature, which forms surface films when applied. Mastic must possess sufficient viscosity to resist sagging and flowing in the thickness required, but it must also be sufficiently ductile to flow plastically when joint movement occurs. Vegetable oils (including linseed oil), synthetic polymers, and bituminous materials may be used to make mastic materials.

**mat** 1. A US term for a \*footing. 2. A mesh of reinforcement. 3. A \*filament resin mixture used in \*fibre-reinforced plastics.

**mate** A labourer or helper who assists with the organization and preparation of materials for the tradesperson.

**material (building material)** The matter or substance used to make things, particularly material used to construct building, such as aggregates, bricks, blocks, steel, and plaster.

**mathematics** The study of numbers, their relationships, and quantities.

**matrix** The predominant phase in a composite material in which another secondary phase or material is dispersed. For example, in a metal reinforced with carbon fibres, the matrix in this case will be the metal.

**matt** A non-gloss flat finish, particularly with regards to paintwork.

**matter** A \*material substance with physical mass.

**mattlock** A type of pickaxe, with a long wooden handle containing a metal head that is pointed at one end and flattened (spade-like) at the other.

**mattress** 1. A large concrete ground slab used to support plant and equipment. 2. A layer of blinding concrete to seal something. 3. A layer of geotextile weighted down with rock to provide a \*scour.

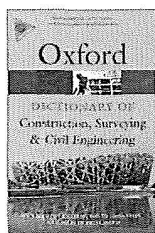
**maul** See MALL.

**maximum** The large value, amount, or level that can be obtained. **Maximum bending moment** is the largest \*bending moment. **Maximum demand** is the largest quantity of something delivered or expected.

**Maxwell diagram** A diagram, constructed by using Bow's notation, that combines a series of \*polygons of forces. It is used in the analysis of members that are all in the same plane and are connected together by \*pin joints, such as a plane truss.



## Oxford Reference



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## mast

A vertical pole or slender tower.

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